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### Kenyon Collegian - February 29, 1952

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# kenyon collegian

feb. 29, 1952 kenyon college, gambier, ohio vol. 78, no. 8

## Let There Be Light . . .

As a rule, Dean Bailey, President Chalmers, and, through them, the Board of Trustees make and enforce the various decisions and dogmas to which the Kenyon Man submits himself as part of the price of an education. The Faculty is generally supposed to stick to lecturing, grading, and deploring the spreading requirement of loyalty oaths. But now we see, for once, a case in which the Faculty has taken a legislative hand — and a rather unsteady hand at that. We refer to the controversial Cut Rule as put into effect last September and modified in November, for that rule is the responsibility of the Faculty, having been passed by vote at a faculty meeting last May after recommendation by the Faculty Council.

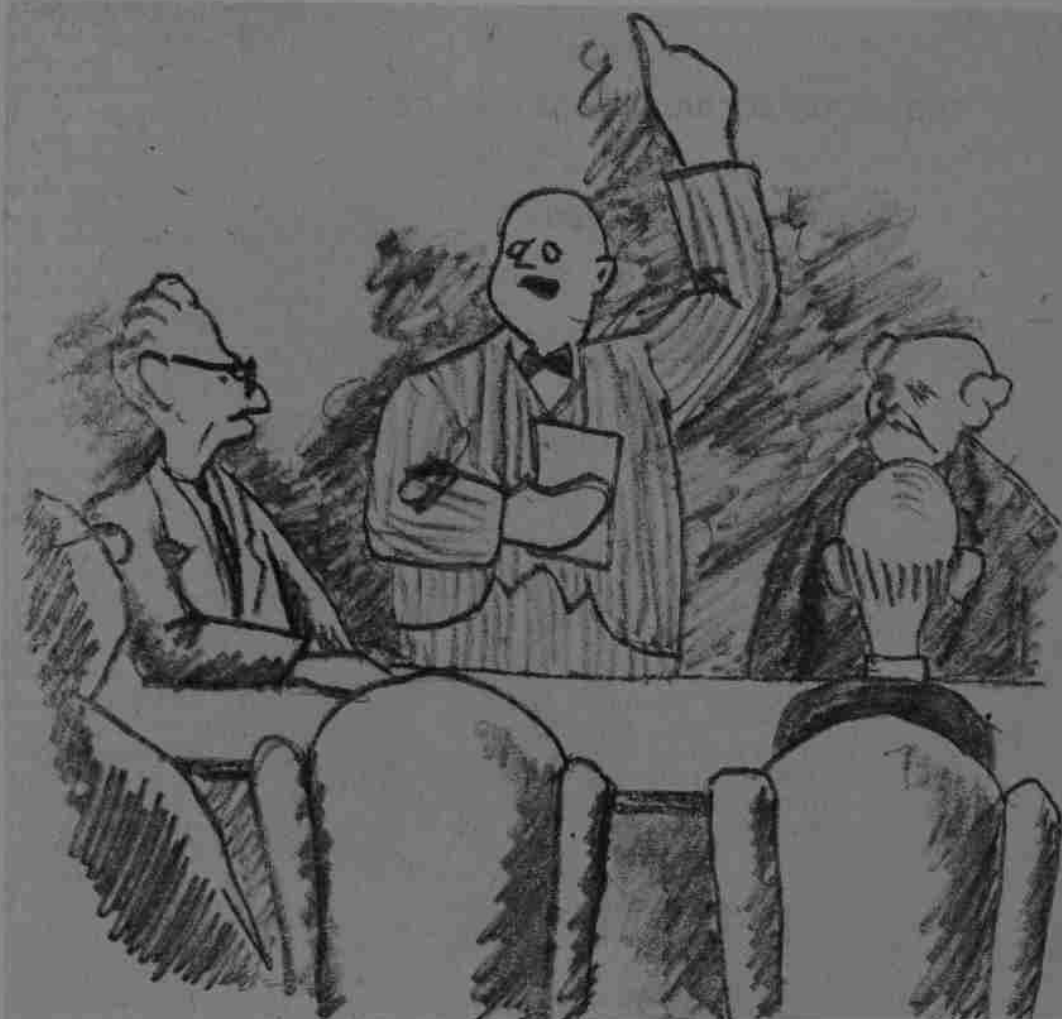
Before World War II, a cut rule permitting the deduction of credit hours for overcuts was in effect, but the war disrupted that system. After the war, the credit-hour system no longer prevailed; the ex-GI's with their good-humored contempt for childish parietal rules swamped the colleges; and the cut rule was lost in the shuffle. Now, however, the ex-GI's have thinned out, and the credit-hour system has returned, dragging with it the question of cut rules, like an old dog with a tin can tied to its tail.

There are strong arguments in favor of some kind of restraint on excess cutting. While it is true that some students can maintain their grades regardless of their class attendance, it is also true that when the attendance in any class falls below a certain critical level, it is a practical impossibility for the instructor to maintain the pace and efficiency of his course. Those students who realize why they are in school, and attend classes with the serious intention of learning, are cheated by such irresponsible cutting and they deserve to have protected their right to receive the maximum value of a course. As a practical matter, the above problem usually is felt only before and after school vacations, and it is these cuts that the present rule attempts to limit. It has no effect on overcuts at other times during the year. In this respect, we feel that it is consistent and reasonable. But we have other bones to pick.

First, we object strongly to the summary way in which the rule was passed and imposed, with utter disregard for student opinion. All of the discussion of the rule took place in closed faculty meetings, whose minutes are secret. The manner in which the rule was imposed, regardless of its value, was an insult to the integrity and intelligence of every student.

Second, we object to the monetary fine, as a discriminatory device which only succeeds in juggling a figurative hot potato from one hand into the other. If irresponsible cutting is unfair to those who have not the time to waste, pecuniary penalties are unfair to those who have not the money. It has been pointed out that this is true in civic, state and national laws as well as in Kenyon, and so it is. Every fine system, from traffic violation to contempt of Congress, has inherent elements of discrimination against our less opulent citizens, but the comparison is irrelevant. We need not dispute the complexities of public law to see that a fine system at Kenyon is unnecessary and unjust. And while we're at it, we would object even more strongly to the notion of deducting points, credit-hours or any other academic

## A Vision of Things to Come?



. . . and in conclusion, gentlemen, I propose that turnstiles be placed at exits of all College buildings!

credits from a student's record as a punishment for overcutting. There is no logic or justice which claims a student's academic record as bond for his personal life. Such a punishment is no more than stupid bludgeoning, reasonless and entirely out of proportion to the crime. If punishment must be imposed, it should be a sensible punishment. To be logically consistent, the cut fines should be placed at such a high rate that nobody could afford them. We do not think this is a good idea. On the contrary we would like to see the fines abolished in favor of the infinitely more valuable "punishment" of the requirement of extra work: a short paper, an extra lab preparation, for example, to be added to the student's grade. But being realistic, we know that not all instructors would be willing to bother with the extra grading involved. Such instructors could find other, easier ways of preventing cuts simply by maintaining their lecture schedules unabated

at the critical times, and leaving the implied extra work of "catching up," to those students who cut them. These suggestions, it may be seen, do not lend themselves to a centralized administration, and that is precisely our last point.

We feel that the responsibility for controlling cuts should rest in the hands of each individual faculty member — for his own classes only. Many schools, we are told, have central cut rules, ours being not unusual either in scope or severity. On the other hand, many schools (like M. I. T., Harvard and Chicago) have virtually no cut rules in practice, but they still manage to remain accredited institutions.

When will our Faculty and Administration legislators start practicing the democratic treatment they preach? Will the poor Midwestern college lad find happiness as the serf of the Gambier noblemen? To be continued.

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## LETTERS

### A Call to Arms

Editor of the Collegian:

During the past semester, many of my friends have written letters in this column, vigorously protesting the various revolting practices which are so popular in this Christian college. In declaring their objection to such revered Kenyon institutions as aqueous vandalism, drunken brawls, and other sublimations of natural lust, they found themselves with a host of agonisms, cognomens, and divers other denominations of an invention highly compatible with the nature of the participants in said practices. It was evident to persons of sensibility and intelligence who was in the right; but such persons were in the extreme minority.

Nevertheless, the letters have been written and if they have not been effective, at least the promulgation of them has been valuable. It is fitting, I think, to memorize their spirit and to propagate their intent in a wider and possibly more fertile field, namely, the whole race of Americans and the climate of their thought, the elements of which have had more than a vacarious effect on our lives at this school.

I make no pretension here to satirizing on the entire panorama of life and manners. Let it be enough for me to present certain of the conditions which have passed by osmosis from America proper to Kenyon College. I think it is enough because, although some among us have suffered mental menopause at unusual ages, a few of you can recognize at mention those elements of our life which so richly merit attack and ultimate destruction.

Smugness is my primary issue here, not because it is abnormal but rather because it is an inwrought portion of us, an evil and deplorable portion. For it is more natural than phenomenal that man vaunt himself prodigiously in those things in which he is most deficient. The shallowest among us swells with the thought of his own profundity; the most sterile is proudest of his fructiveness; the sinner is first to cast the sharpest stone. Smugness is wont to accompany all of man's baseness, and therein lies its basest ingredient.

The state of fine arts in America is a sufficient example. It presents a magnificent opportunity for satire, but it seems a pity to vent sarcasm on such obvious inconsistency, such farce. For although I do not want to belie the several rich and flourishing talents in our culture, it is not difficult to observe the ludicrous contrast in this country between pride and production. Production is limited to mere technological advance; real native creativity is wanting. Even our most distinguished musicians are foreign. But the disturbing and dangerous aspect of the situation lies in our obnoxious arrogance. With all we buy and all we have, we really have very little that is important; yet in spite of that, we are maddeningly smug and childishly

chauvinistic. To our own minds, we Americans are creative, resourceful, and level. In reality, we are decadent, shallow, and desperately hysterical. Shaw has called us a nation of Villagers, 100% American and 99% idiot. We should be deeply hurt by that, but can we say that it is unmerited? Are not our cultural circumstances despicable? One needs only to point out the striking evidences. David Diamond, brilliantly capable and potentially one to reckon with, must work each day in dishwater and restaurant grease to buy manuscript paper on which he writes wearily in a rented room; George Antheil, already accomplished, found no sympathy or help among his own people and was driven abroad to deserved recognition at the hands of Europeans and Expatriates; Walter Piston is forced for livelihood into an academy where he has no moments to write what could be immortal; Ezra Pound, a man of fabulous gift and perhaps our only epic poet, languishes in an insane asylum, justly condemned in 1945 but stubbornly unforgiven, kept in a cage where he will not sing. These men have their failings, but they are rich and complete human beings in a society, our own, which denied them the right to give and in so doing, lost more than a few pages of unwritten beauty. And are Pound and the rest alone, spectacular outcasts in a society too barren for their seed? No, I will pass over the host of bright and serious young men who have fallen and will fall beneath the weight of stupidity and prim rejection, a weight labelled 'public opinion.' I will pass over the students of America who have traded their souls and convictions for trivial surface liberties, and continue restlessly to exist in a subtle intellectual bondage. I need not go into the fact that, for example, a second-rate European opera company goes on giving better performances than the Metropolitan. But is it the artist alone who in this time and land must be a powerful personality to rise from the arid waste of the common consciousness? No, it is every man who wants and hopes fervently to think for himself and to express those thoughts and to act accordingly. And yet my complaint does not end with what is obvious: the crudity, the boorishness, the shadows of slavery. Here is the root at which my protest digs: if one complains of the insufferable complacency that is all about, he cannot miss the American school sitting smugly on its wooded hill and being quite content. What has education contributed to the struggle against the cancerous processes of our defects and our evils? Kenyon College, as well as other schools, is a cesspool of the typical and pernicious attitudes. And the loathsome "toads" of administration make no step out of academicism's chains and conventions to counter-act any of the poison. I strongly suspect that they have little desire to do so. The antidote might be their life's-blood.

(Continued on Page 5)



# LOCAL NEWS

Edited by Mel Plotinsky

## A Winter Vacation

The nation-wide flu epidemic struck the Mount Vernon school system with full force, according to figures released by the Mount Vernon school board.

Approximately thirty per cent of the school children of Knox county were afflicted with either influenza or mumps during the week of February 18-23. The large amount of absentees led to the closing of the Mount Vernon public schools for that period.

However, the situation now seems to be gradually improving. All the schools reopened on Monday, February 25, with "only" twenty per cent of the students not answering roll-call. School officials believe that the worst of the epidemic is over, and that there will be no need to close the schools again in the near future. Students of high school age were not affected by the epidemic as much as those in the lower grades, particularly those in the first three years of elementary school.

## A Meeting of The Elite

Phi Beta Kappa held its annual initiation for seven members of the Class of 1952 in President Chalmers' office at five-thirty P.M. on Friday, February 22. Dr. Richard Salomon presided over the ceremonies in the absence of Dr. Chalmers. Those initiated were: Fred Neihardt, George Christ, George Lanning, Al Ballard, Dave Lobdell, Pete Mosher, Cliff Hagen and Howard Duntzman, who wasn't present for he is serving in the Armed Forces. The initiation took place earlier this year, membership usually being announced at the Honors Day Convocation with the initiation being held a few days later. At the dinner, which was held in the private dining-room of Peirce Hall, Colin Roberts, the Oxford Don, an eminent paleontologist, was the guest of honor. Mr. Roberts is a close friend of Sir Frederick Kenyon, also a prominent paleontologist, and one of the few remaining members of the Kenyon Family.

That evening, at eight o'clock in Philomathesian Hall, Mr. Roberts gave the annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture. His topic was: "The How and Why of the Modern Book" which dealt largely with the evolution of the ancient scroll to the notebook, or codex. Mr. Roberts pointed out that the literature of the Augustan era was predominantly preserved on the papyrus scroll, this system being long retained as an indication of conservatism and even gentility. But when the demands of convenience, coupled with civilization's increasing awareness of history and the need for recording it, took the stiffness out of the scroll's dignity, the notebook format began coming into its own. Julius Caesar, obviously caught between the prestige of the old and the convenience of the new forms, chose to write on

both sides of the scroll.

The earliest notebooks were kept because they were easier to conceal, easier to consult and had their sentimental and symbolic value. St. Paul's comments on the Old Testament were preserved on a parchment notebook, and the subsequent Christian canon was affected by the additional capacity of the codex format. The possession of libraries was facilitated by the adoption of the notebook, although a cultural regression was considered prevalent during the third century A. D., for the roll remained symbolic of the ancient culture. The following, almost universal adoption of the codex was appealing to an age that turned toward law and authority for security.

The decline of the financial and cultural levels of the Roman Empire gave impetus to the codex form which stood as the symbol of the coming age of the Church and the Law.

## A Worthy Innovation

The Social Committee of the Bexley Society has introduced a new feature to the seminary's social program. On February 24 and 25 the Middler Chase sponsored a "Midwinter Dance." The event was such a success that Bexley students hope to make it an annual affair.

The weekend included a social hour on Saturday afternoon in the Bishop Leonard Room of Bexley Hall, followed by Evening Prayer at the Church of the Holy Spirit. The Saturday night program began with a Bexley Family banquet in the Peirce Hall private dining room. This was followed by dancing from nine to twelve in the lounge. Music was furnished by the "Three Moods" from Columbus.

The single men provided themselves with dates for the occasion from home or from nearby Denison University and Wooster College. As far as is known, this dance was the first of its kind in Bexley history. It serves as an example of the variety of activity that has resulted from an increased interest in the Bexley Society's social program.

## "Four Spades"

Chosen from an elimination round held a week earlier, four couples played the semi-final round in the 1952 National Intercollegiate Bridge Tournament, Thursday, February 22.

Sixteen members were entered in the competition and from them these couples were selected: Tom Butcher and Lou Bernstein, Bob McComb and Mark Steele, Peter Mosher and Wayne Cody, and Mike Brandriss and Tim Ryan. Playing a set of mailed hands last Thursday, these entrants were competing with 375 other college clubs throughout the country.

The results of this contest were mailed to the tournament headquarters in New York, and the final decision of district winners will be made in a

month. Kenyon is a member of the Middle Eastern Zone, from which two couples will be selected to enter the finals in Chicago on April 18-19.

Sponsored by the American Card Company, these tournaments are an annual event and provide an expense-free trip to Chicago for the winners. Kenyon's team is coached by Dr. F. Miller and Mrs. J. C. Ransom, and although it has never won a trip to the national tournament, it has always placed high in its zone.

## Standard Entertainment

Felix Morley, writer and educator, will be the guest speaker at the Honors Day Convocation on March 4 in Rosse Hall. A Rhodes Scholar, a trained economist, and a brilliant writer, Mr.

Morley has brought his training and his talents to bear on the many projects in which he has taken a hand.

At the Convocation prizes and awards, including the Robert Frost Poetry Prize, the Bookshop Awards, and new elections to Phi Beta Kappa will be announced; and Mr. Morley will address the Kenyon student body and faculty on "Standards."

## The Wright Thing To Do

By action of the Kenyon College Board of Trustees the building which houses the infirmary facilities for the College has been designated the Charles C. Wright House in honor of former trustee Charles C. Wright of Cleveland, who was instrumental in having infirmary facilities installed at Kenyon in 1943. Mr. Wright, also the donor to the Kenyon Faculty of the "Wright Parties," occasions of music and refreshments, died in April of last year.

# DIVISIONS

Edited by Bruce Pennington

## Archon

On February 5th, the following new officers were elected: President, Joe Pavlovich; Vice President, Jim Hoyle; Secretary, Charley Alcorn; Treasurer, Dave Ryeburn, Pledge Master, Bob Busacker; Sergeant-at-arms, Ross Ward. Fraternity affairs are now running smoothly with a sea breeze party planned for March 1, the night of the Sophomore Beaux Arts Ball. Bacchus will begin his reign at 8:00 p. m. Saturday night.

Ross Ward, who retired from intellectual pursuits for a semester, is back with us again, and Dave Wakefield and horn have left for Canton for a semester. Dave lives there.

Fraternity "fish" are being organized with an eye on Schaeffer Pool and the intra-mural swimming meet. We should do well in this with such men as Osako and Ferguson competing.

## Delta Phi

Phi's plans for the Sophomore Dance seem likely to include a combo party in the afternoon, and set-ups and beer in the evening.

The Pledge-Active Party last Saturday was a roaring (?) success. Once more, the central attraction and entertainment was provided by the presence of a select group of Delta Gammas from Denison. The intoxication rendered by such femininity, together with that of more liquid nature, i. e., Fish House Punch, was sufficient to assure a good time for all.

The Chapter is most happy to announce the initiation of Professor Hoyt Landon Warner into Delta Phi. The ceremony took place Sunday afternoon and was followed by a dinner party at the Curtis.

## Delta Tau Delta

Wow! What a party! That was about all the actives could say after the entertainment given them by the pledge class last Saturday. It was a 'dry' affair by the moist standards of most Hill-dwellers but there was no need for "that glow" with such a bewitching group as the Theta's of Denison.

The men of M. L. have gone all out to get dates for tomorrow night's Beaux Arts Ball. Even such a confirmed bachelor as Yon Urnes is breaking down. A couple of very weird costumes should be seen tomorrow night with Delts inside. Are you dressing in character boys?

We wound up a close but very successful basketball season last week. In one night the Big-red five copped the championships in both the "A" and "B" leagues. In perhaps their best game of the season the "A" team trimmed the East Wing cagers to take the playoff and the championship. Rough and tumble was the description of the "B" game that followed with the South Leonard "B" team.

A word here for Ron Ryan the leading D.T.D. scorer, who averaged better than 10 points per game.

## Sigma Pi

We are very happy and proud to announce the pledging of Caryl Warner and Gus Dallas, and we extend them our congratulations.

The Peeps held a dinner banquet in the private dining room of Peirce Hall on Feb. 26 in celebration of Founder's Day of Sigma Pi. Following the meal and business meeting a smoker was held in the parlor with songs and beer furnishing the entertainment.

We would like to congratulate the Delts, on their winning the basketball championship.

# SPORTS

Edited by Gene Schrier

## Lords of Kenyon

Sophomore Albert Eastman, an outstanding swimmer for Kenyon the past two seasons, gained his first swimming experience at a summer camp when he was eight years old. Since then he has developed into one of the finest swimmers Kenyon College has seen. Al first began competitive swimming when he was at University School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. There as a freshman, he competed in the 100 yard free style event.

The next three years, Al attended Hebron Academy located at Hebron, Maine. Under the expert guidance of the co-captain for the William's varsity swimming team, Al improved steadily. He participated in the 50 and 100 yard events in his first two years. In his final year, Al began swimming the 200 yard free style event. After the completion of the regular season at Hebron, Al competed in the New England Interscholarship Swimming Championships held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where the swimmers from the various prep schools of New England gathered. In the 200 yard event, Al finished fourth while Hebron Acad-



Al Eastman

emy as a team, ended third.

During the summer before coming to Kenyon, Al entered the Cleveland Heights Invitational where he finished second in the 200, and third in the back stroke. During his freshman year at Kenyon, he swam in 220 and 440 yard free style events, the final relay, and occasionally the back stroke. In both the 220 and 440 yard events, "Drapo" was undefeated, and in most cases he was not pressed by his opponents. If the rules had allowed him to enter more than three events, He could have become a consistent winner in the back stroke.

Last April, he entered the A. A. U. meets at Cleveland where the best swimmers from northeastern Ohio, northern Indiana and western Pennsylvania competed. Despite this rugged competition, Al placed fourth in the 440.

This season, although the team has been plagued by many misfortunes, Al has continued his winning ways. He did suffer a controversial defeat at Ohio University in the 440, when he was disqualified for an illegal turn. At Baldwin-Wallace, Al set the pool record in the 440 at a fraction better than 5:16. The greatest thrill Al had this season

was defeating an old rival, Frand Matter of Case. At the A. A. U. meets, Matter placed third in the 440, one place ahead of Al, but Al avenged this defeat with two victories over Matter when Kenyon swam against Case this year.

Al and team mate Herb Ullman, Kenyon's brilliant diver and 50 yard free styler, may compete in an invitational tournament at Bowling Green on March 8th. This tournament is called the Central Collegiates and includes all schools in the midwest with the exception of the Big Ten. These two could very easily bring more glory to Kenyon athletics. Since Al is only a sophomore, the future of Kenyon's swimming team looks bright, and it is the hope of everyone that next season won't be so unpredictable. This year, Coach Passini was never certain who would be able to swim the various events. Nevertheless, he always was able to count on one of the most dependable of the Lords of Kenyon, Monsieur Eastman.

## A Dual Victory

The intramural basketball season came to a close with the Delt's on top again. They took a three game playoff to win. In the first playoff game, the Delt's, led by Ron Ryan who scored 16 points, beat the Beta's 32-19. Dick Thomas threw in 14 for the losing team, but his teammates could only add five more.

In the second game the Delt's continued their winning ways beating the Alpha Delt's 40-24, Ryan again leading the way with 17 points. Hayden chipped in 9 and Craig 6. Botten of the Alpha Delt's hooped 16 out of his team's 24. In the final playoff game to determine second place, the Alpha Delt's beat the Beta's in a thriller 25-23. Leading all the way 10-4, 12-6, 16-14, and 25-23 at the finish. Kiger was high man for the Alpha Delt's with 8 and Botten had 7. McGowan and Thomas each had 8 for the Beta's.

The final standings of A and B basketball are as follows:

M. L.	12	1	92
E. W.	11	2	84
S. L.	10	3	76
Harcourt	6	4	60
Bexley	5	4	55
M. H.	5	4	55
E. D.	4	6	40
S. H.	3	7	30
N. H.	3	7	30
N. L.	2	7	22
W. W.	2	8	20
M. K.	1	8	11
<b>B Ball</b>			
M. L.	7	0	100
N. H.	6	1	85
S. L.	5	2	71
E. D.	4	3	57
E. W.	3	4	42
S. H.	2	5	28
M. H.	0	7	00
M. K.	0	7	00

## And They're Off

Kenyon's "informal" indoor track season opened Saturday with a practice meet at Denison. The Lords were under-manned in practically every event so had little chance of winning, but those who did participate, did well and are to be complimented.

The track team this year is actually informal since it is not sponsored by the school financially, nor is the coach provided by the school. Joe Leo, however, a Bexley man who, in his undergraduate days at Trinity College, was an outstanding runner, kindly volunteered to coach the team. Tom Butcher and Ken Campbell then did much of the early recruiting necessary to get the team started. This job was made really difficult by the fact that no meets were scheduled or even in sight, but Mr. Stiles solved this problem by arranging the Denison meet and four others, dates to be announced. To make the team complete, Jerry Reese returned to his "Life-Time at Kenyon" position as track manager.

The results of the Denison meet are as follows:

**55 Yd. Dash:** Hanaford, 3rd, Winning time: 6.2 sec.

**440 Yd. Dash:** No place for Kenyon. Time: 54.9 sec.

**55 Yd. High Hurdles:** Crome, 3rd, Winning time .07.2 sec. (Ties field house record.)

**Shot Put:** Cooke, 2nd, Hanaford, 3rd, Winning dist. 37'2 1/2".

**880 Yd. Run:** No place for Kenyon. Time: 2 min. 9.3 sec.

**High Jump:** McCutcheon, Tie for 1st, Height: 5'8".

**880 Yd. Relay:** Kenyon 2nd, (Butcher, Humphrey, Crome, Hanaford.) Winning time, 1 min. 43.2 sec. (New Field House record.)

Final score: Denison, 54; Kenyon 17.

As a result of the competition Saturday, Bill Hanaford was invited to participate in the Indoor Conference Meet at Denison on March 15th.

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The Collegian



# THE ARTS

Edited by Dick Francisco

## Sunset on Winterset

After the performances of "Winterset" last week, I listened to the comments of the playgoers; this seemed to be the consensus of opinion: "poor play . . . fine production." Although some dissented, most thought very little of Anderson's verse drama.

However, it is not my purpose to discuss the merits of the material but to consider what the cast did within the limits of that material.

I submit that the Dramatic Club gave a superb performance and much surpassed its handling of "Midsummer Night's Dream." It is enough for me to commend highly the members of the cast and those who were in other ways responsible for the success of the performance.

There were four really outstanding performances. Louis Everstine, in the leading role of Mio, gave the steadiest and probably most brilliant delivery. The second was that of Lee Sutton, who was splendid as Esdras, a little quavery at moments, but always natural and compelling, even in the final act's closing speech, a hard part to play. Gaunt, in Mort Segal's interpretation, was a third fine character, shifting with ease from torment and madness to caprice and then to arrogance.

Surprisingly enough, the fourth performance which I considered outstanding is that of a minor character. One of the best things about the play was the supporting cast, but Sy Weissman, portraying the Radical in the crowd scene, stood above the rest; he exploited all the humor in his lines, and helped to make the crowd scene the best in the whole production.

The best part of the whole play for me, however, was not in the acting but in two aspects of production. First, the set designed by James Keegan and second, the make-up job by Frank LeFever. And of course, one cannot overlook Mr. Michael's direction which accounted for a good deal of the performance's

success. The most disappointing part of the four nights was the audience. They were very discourteous, their rudeness reaching its greatest point at the most tragic moments. A little discretion would have been appropriate.

—R. Mezey

I am disappointed that Mr. Mezey has shirked his responsibility as a critic by not remarking on the content of Anderson's play, for it certainly deserves comment. By delving into the reviews on its initial performance we found plentiful criticism of what Anderson attempted to do and what he actually achieved in this play. We would most heartily agree with those critics, who, at the time found it cheap gangster melodrama with poetic pretensions. One need only recall the shoddy theatrical ending of the play; bodies pile up on the stage as the father is forced to make his last speech in chorus fashion much too soon after the third act's sudden burst of action for the audience to grasp its significance. Similarly Shadow's extended resurrection from the dead seems too much like an after-thought injected into the play's dramatically sagging middle. But the most gallingly pretentious part of Anderson's play is the would-be verse, which has two glaring flaws: it is either equivalent to pedestrian prose or else it soars from the reality of the present into flights of metaphor cheaply imitating Shakespeare. Unlike Christopher Fry, who also seeks to emulate Shakespeare, Anderson lacks the intellectual ability and situation to play with the meaning and sounds of words; if he persists further in verse plays he should learn from Mr. Eliot's example, and rely on conversational diction metrically arranged.

The social message of "Winterset" hardly deserves comment. Like Odette's "Golden Boy," which the Dramatic club unfortunately under-

took last year, Anderson's message has become dated and rather meaningless in the 1950's. One wonders why so much potentially good talent wasted time trying to impart artistic merit to anything of such transitory importance. It makes "Winterset" about as significant as the poetic propaganda which Archibald MacLish so profusely turned out during the war. While art must deal with permanent and lasting human situations, of which the idea of justice is clearly one, Anderson is more concerned with "radicals" and power politics; thus in an age of "red herring" and corruption in government it hardly interests us that the National Biscuit Co. can persuade city hall to rope off 8th Avenue while a group of tentament dwellers can not even dance in the street.

We must severely castigate the Dramatic club for producing "Winterset," we credit it with more discriminating taste. Its choice of "Golden Boy" last year we assigned to experience, but the selection of "Winterset" is inexcusable. We sympathize with their need to choose plays with large casts predominately male, but we feel that plays of the 1930's are an erroneous choice. Finally we deplore the club's reliance on one Elizabethan play each season to guarantee a reputation which could be even further enhanced by more judicious choice.

Perhaps the predominate attitude of the present generation toward the arts of the past twenty years was best expressed by a recent alumnus who returning to see "Winterset," commented: "the fun loving twenties fascinate us, but the intensely serious thirties are just plain embarrassing."

In answer to Mr. Mezey's final remarks I would reply that an audience reacts to a play as it is presented to them by playwright and actors, and if they are reasonably intelligent their reaction is far more telling than the critic's analysis.

—Crites

## CULTURE NOTE



Delving into the library archives last week the *Collegian* produced the authentic title for the Calder mobile on the first anniversary of its acquisition by the college. Ignominiously dubbed "The Thing," its initial appearance provoked a student parody consisting of soup cans and old wallets, which graced the beams of the vaulted Norton room for many weeks. New title: "Vertical White Frame, 1936."\*

\*Not to be confused with an earlier "White Frame" (1934) which is motorized.

## LETTERS

(Continued from page 2)

We have seen the results. Everywhere, all of the time, slowly the poison the whole blood stream fills. A man stands in the senate, undaunted before the scions of scratch, the agents of moneyed aggrandizers, and suggests an innovation, a change in a system so lucrative to so few; the senate laughs . . . a magazine in Kenyon College publishing the work of young writers loses its already tiny financial support; Kenyon cheers . . . a high and serious inquisition wreaks its vicious pursuit on us . . . we wait for an inevitable conclusion; all is well . . . we are led by Mister Average Man (for whom we find justification in the Holy Bible: "A little child shall lead them") and by hordes of stupid, venal, and faithless ones; we love them and pray for them . . . the country is viced in a painless and comfortable kind of strangulation; we are fat and content . . . there is bread and circuses; the crowd claps. We are in the winter of our civilization.

You are the sons of Kenyon and the fathers of tomorrow; but to this day you are cuckold. Your servants are your masters and they are making your world. If you have felt no pain and no fury over the crazy course of our life, then you can keep your narrow and cherished principles, your dear insane traditions. But if those of you to whom I register this protest have more than natural flesh and bone, gut and craw, then you may have eyes to see and brains to understand and hands to act . . . and they have lain fallow far too long.

—Robert Mezey

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